



# Maricopa County

## News Release

### Environmental Services Department

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### ***This 4<sup>th</sup> of July, be Mosquito-FREE!*** **Maricopa County Environmental Services Department** **Reminds you to help "Fight the Bite"**

This coming 4<sup>th</sup> of July and holiday weekend, many Maricopa County residents will go out to enjoy fireworks displays throughout the valley and participate in other various outdoor activities.

Before the festivities begin, Maricopa County Environmental Services department would like to remind residents to take precautions against West Nile virus (WNV).

"We have to be mindful that West Nile virus is a permanent health risk in Maricopa County. It is important to be aware and take the proper preventative measures to fight the bite, and protect ourselves and our families," said John Kolman, director with the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department.

West Nile virus is a serious and potentially deadly disease that is most often spread by the bite of mosquitoes that have become infected from feeding on infected birds.

Take these precautions to prevent West Nile virus:

- Eliminate mosquito-breeding sites around the home by removing standing water in potted plants, tires, bird baths and other containers where water may collect.
- Remove unnecessary clutter.
- Repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of the home.
- Make sure pools and decorative ponds are properly maintained and operational.

Wherever you may be this weekend, bring your insect repellent along and please follow label instructions, especially for use on children. Share your insect repellent with those around you.

Additionally:

- Wear light colored clothing with long sleeves and pants.
- If possible, avoid outdoor activity before dawn and after dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use protective clothing and insect repellent when exposure to mosquitoes cannot be avoided.

-More-

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Page 2 of 2

So far this year, Maricopa County Environmental Services department has received laboratory confirmation of 45 WNV positive mosquito samples.

The Public Information Office has made available several educational materials related to West Nile virus, mosquito awareness, and Aedes aegypti. In addition to this printed material, presentations and educational programs for children, adults, and community organizations are available for residents to take advantage of.

For more information on West Nile virus, to set-up an appointment to obtain mosquito eating fish at no cost to you, to report green pools, file any mosquito related complaint, register on the Fogging Notification System or for WNV materials or presentations for your group/organization, please call the West Nile Virus General Information and Help Line at (602) 506-0700, or visit <http://www.maricopa.gov/wnv>.

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